

[COMMITTEE PRINT NO. 3]

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

U.S. House of Representatives

HONORING

DOROTHY L. STARBUCK

Retiring Chief Benefits Director

OF THE

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1985

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The CHAIRMAN [G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY (MS)] . We are pleased to have the Administrator, Harry Walters, and the members of his staff to review the agency's proposed 1986 budget. We welcome the Administrator and also the staff members with him.

Mr. Administrator, before hearing your testimony, we would like to do something that we have been looking forward to, something very pleasant, something that makes life worthwhile, we think. We would like to have Mr. [Mack] Fleming [Committee Staff Director] escort Dorothy Starbuck to the rostrum.

(Applause.)

While Congress was out of session, Dorothy Starbuck, who was the Chief Benefits Director of the Veterans Administration, one of the three key jobs in the Veterans Administration, retired on December 21. We were not able to honor her at that time. At this time we want to honor Dorothy Starbuck. She served for many years at the Veterans Administration. In fact, she served with every Administrator except the first one appointed.

She has appeared before this Committee many, many times. She handles herself so well. She doesn't talk a lot. She just tells us what she wants us to hear, and then she waits on the questions. She gets by with it, and she has done that for several years and it always works out.

We are very proud of Dorothy Starbuck. In fact, she looks younger and younger to me since she has retired. Dorothy, we are certainly happy to honor you today before the first full meeting of this Committee.

I would like at this time to introduce our very capable Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee, Mr. [John Paul] Hammerschmidt, who will read the resolution for the hearing record. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I join you in welcoming a great and highly respected friend of ours and of this Committee and of the entire Congress and of all of our Nation's veterans across this country and around the world. It is a distinct honor to present this resolution:

WHEREAS Dorothy L. Starbuck distinguished herself as a member of the United States Army from 1942 to 1946, during which period she served overseas for two years in France, England, and Germany, being separated as a Captain, and

WHEREAS, following service, she has served the Veterans Administration during the tenure of 11 Administrators for almost 40 years, and

WHEREAS she gained national attention as the first female to be appointed to a number of managerial positions, including the first Regional Office Director and the first Chief Benefits Director, and

WHEREAS, as Chief Benefits Director, she was responsible for the administration of one of the most comprehensive benefits programs in Federal Government, through a network of 58 regional offices, from Manila to San Juan and

WHEREAS she received many awards and honors, including the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civil Service presented in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter, and the Distinguished Executive Award by President Ronald Reagan in 1982,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives, on this 20th day of February, 1985, commends Dorothy L. Starbuck for her dedication in fulfilling the Nation's commitment to its veterans and their families and extends its highest commendation for her example of leadership and devotion in carrying out the Veterans Administration's mission of serving American veterans and their families throughout the world with compassion and dignity.

Signed, G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Chairman, and John Paul Hammerschmidt, Ranking Minority Member.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair doesn't do this often, but the Chair would like to turn over the gavel to Dorothy Starbuck for any comments she would like to make.

Dorothy?

Miss STARBUCK. I finally know how it feels to be here and not out there.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hammerschmidt, Members of the Committee, I am overwhelmed by the honor that you have done me today, and I can only say that in the years that I served as Chief Benefits Director, it was always my distinct pleasure to work with the Committee and to serve you as you pursued the benefits that are so worthy for our veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I am humbled by your honor. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you again, Dorothy.

[Later in the hearing]

Mr. [HARRY] WALTERS [Administrator of Veterans' Affairs]. I would like to tell you that I think your honoring Dorothy Starbuck today is a very nice thing to do. When she came to me and said she was going to retire, she asked she be allowed to leave without any degree of fanfare. I promised her I would not allow that to happen, and I can see you didn't let her down either. She has had a lot of praise in 40 years of service to the Federal Government. I think it is well worthwhile, Mr. Chairman, that you took your time and this Committee's time to honor her this morning. We thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Administrator. This is one of the largest crowds we have had at a hearing, and I am sure a good part of that crowd was on account of Dorothy Starbuck.

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